

## 2025 Annual Report from the Committee on Community of Faith Support (CCFS)

This Committee is tasked

“to provide oversight and support to communities of faith, especially pastoral charges in their day to day mission and ministry and guidance with matters of transition such as structural changes, amalgamation, realignment and closure.

This committee makes recommendations on matters requiring decisions to these bodies. In the former structure, much of the work of this committee was done by Pastoral Oversight Committees in Presbyteries. “([www.prairietopiner.ca/governance](http://www.prairietopiner.ca/governance))

The CCOFS meets monthly by Zoom and currently has six full members and one staff person. Each non-indigenous Pastoral Charge is assigned to a committee member, who tries to be in contact with the PC (one of our struggles is finding a reliable source of contact information that is current). We work to be a supportive presence, provide resources or provide direction to where information can be found. We also have the responsibility of oversight, so good communication is key. Our work tends to be focused on Communities of Faith (COF) in times of transition.

We continue to monitor Self-assessments done by COFs (mandated by our By-laws (B.2.1), finishing the third year of a 3-year cycle. These reports are a ‘snapshot of the current situation’, not a ‘report card’. If all is well, then all is well. If a COF is in the midst of change of a pastoral relations or governance, then that is what is reported.

In addition to this foundational oversight work, the CCFS is here to support Pastoral Charges as they consider their future direction. We recognize there are emotional and legal challenges in creating Collaborative Ministries, amalgamations and realignments of PCs; being part of Ecumenical Shared Ministry agreements; and the process of disbanding. This work takes time and some of the detailed aspects and processes which must be followed to be compliant with Canadian law can feel frustrating but following the procedures step-by-step breaks down the tasks into more manageable pieces.

We support Communities of Faith who are contemplating making structural changes to their governance structure or by bylaw documents. We assist them in making sure they are up to date on UCC Manual requirements/ wording and recommend final approval to the Regional Council Executive.

**Our biggest piece of work was finishing a resource called “We Can’t Continue On Like This”. It provides step-by-step procedures based on a COF’s direction. Summary statements related to the document have been posted on Prairie to Pine website.** \*It is important to note that it can take 18-24 months to complete a disbanding process.

Since September 2024, we have been involved with assisting 35 Communities of Faith as they processed change.

- **Five COF were officially disbanded:**

- St. Paul’s United Church, Graysville MB
- Calvin United Church at Rathwell of the Treherne-Rathwell Pastoral Charge
- Sparling United Church
- Ste. Rose du Lac United Church of the Lakeside Pastoral Charge
- Miami United Church

- **The Teulon-Balmoral Pastoral Charge was split into separate congregations:**
  - Teulon United Church
  - Balmoral United Church
- **Two Ecumenical Shared Ministry agreements ended.**
  - Emmanuel Anglican/United Church, Ignace ON (final church service was held on June 1, 2025. The Anglican Diocese is working toward dis-establishment of the Anglican congregation and then we will proceed to disbandment.
  - Lutheran-United Church of Thompson (covenant agreement dissolved Jan 26, 2025 at the service led by Anglican Bishop Jason Zinko). The United Church Community of Faith is now known again as St. John's United Church, Thompson MB

Thank you to all Communities of Faith who have submitted *hard copies* of your Annual Reports to the Regional Council office, completed the United Church Statistical Forms (online), and use Church Hub to stay up-to-date denominational assessments. If we can help any Communities of Faith who struggle with this, please let us know.

We are deeply grateful, to *Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Commission Minister and Cherry Abad, P2P Regional Council Office Administrator* for their unwavering support, and particularly for their work in updating the We Can't Go One Like This resource.

Submitted by

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